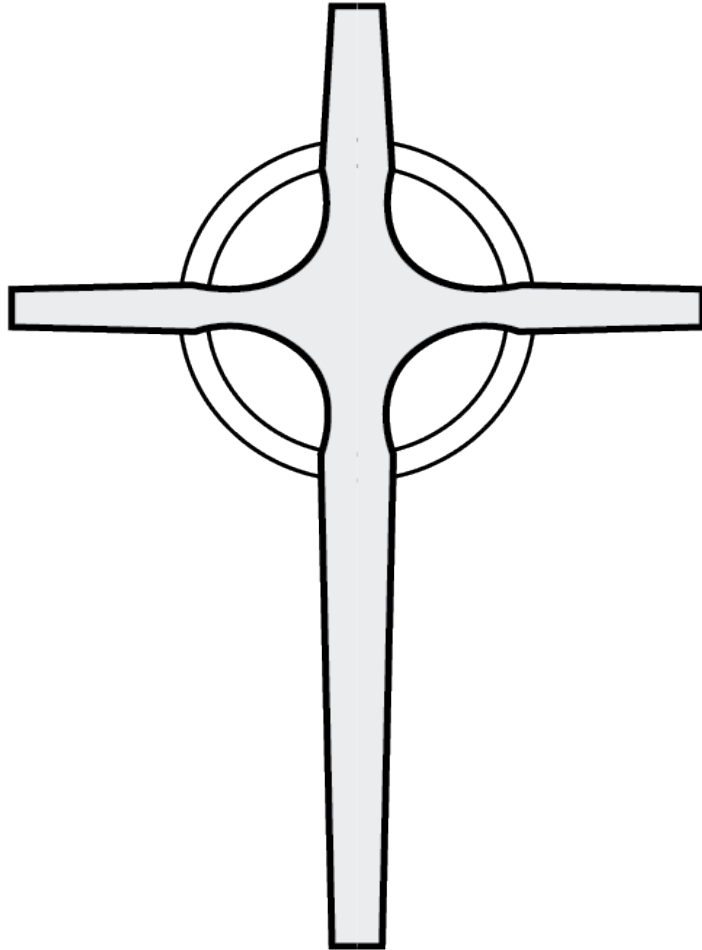
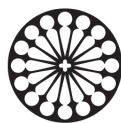


FULLY ALIVE WITH THE PASSION OF CHRIST



May 17, 2026 | 8:30 and 11:00 a.m.  
Ascension Sunday



**South Highland  
Presbyterian Church**

ALL ARE WELCOME IN THE NAME OF JESUS CHRIST!

2035 Highland Avenue South • Birmingham, Alabama 35205  
[www.southhighland.org](http://www.southhighland.org) • (205) 933-0790

## Preparing for Worship

Most of us are familiar with Jesus' birth, death, and resurrection, but his ascension is one of the most neglected and misunderstood events in his ministry. As we'll hear in today's Scripture reading, forty days after Jesus rose from the dead, he then rose into heaven and was seated at the right hand of God the Father.

There are at least two reasons Jesus' ascension is good news for us this morning.

First, it means we have an Advocate. When Jesus ascended, he didn't enter into retirement until he comes again. Right now our living Savior and great High Priest is interceding on our behalf. He knows what it feels like to face suffering and temptation. When you feel weak, ashamed, unworthy, or discouraged, remember your Advocate is before the Father pleading your case.

Second, it means we have a King. The ascension is Christ's coronation. Unlike earthly rulers, his power is unshakable. No election can unseat him, no forces can defeat him—not even death itself. And he rules not for his own glory, but for the sake of his people. J.R.R. Tolkien said it well: "The hands of the king are the hands of a healer, and so shall the rightful king be known."

You'll find these themes woven throughout today's liturgy. Enter his presence with confidence, and worship our ascended King with joy!

# CELEBRATION FOR THE LORD'S DAY

Sunday, May 17, 2026

*To all who are weary and need rest; to all who mourn and long for comfort;  
to all who fail and desire strength; to all who sin and need a Savior—  
this church opens wide her doors with a welcome from Jesus Christ, the friend of sinners.*

## GATHERING IN GOD'S PRESENCE

PRELUDE: "Nocturne" ..... Felix Mendelssohn  
*Kenny Lewis, Organ*

WELCOME ..... David Yancey (8:30)  
Rev. Cort Gatliff (11:00)

\*CALL TO WORSHIP *\*please stand if able* ..... Psalm 47:1-2; 5-6

Clap your hands, all you peoples;  
shout to God with loud songs of joy.  
For the Lord, the Most High, is awesome,  
a great king over all the earth.  
God has gone up with a shout,  
the Lord with the sound of a trumpet.  
Sing praises to God, sing praises;  
sing praises to our King, sing praises.

\*HYMN: #423 (blue)

"Jesus Shall Reign Where'er the Sun" ..... DUKE STREET  
*Entrance of the Word and Light*

\*PRAYER OF ADORATION AND INVOCATION

\*CALL TO CONFESSION

\*CORPORATE PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Lord Jesus Christ, our merciful and faithful High Priest,  
who has entered the heavenly sanctuary  
and ever lives to make intercession for us,  
have mercy upon us, for we have sinned against you,  
and we have done what is evil in your sight.  
Forgive our foolishness and our hard-heartedness.

Cleanse us from all unrighteousness and renew a right spirit within us,  
that we might worship and serve you  
as the King of kings and Lord of lords,  
now and forevermore. Amen.

**\*INDIVIDUAL PRAYERS OF CONFESSION**

**\*DECLARATION OF GRACE & FORGIVENESS**

For thus says the high and lofty one who inhabits eternity, whose name is Holy:  
I dwell in the high and holy place and also with those who are contrite and humble in  
spirit, to revive the spirit of the humble and to revive the heart of the contrite.

Isaiah 57:15

Friends, believe the good news of the Gospel:

**In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.**

O Lord, open our lips,

**and our mouths shall show forth your praise.**

**\*CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE** ..... REGENT SQUARE

*Easter people, raise your voices, sounds of heaven in earth should ring.*

*Christ has brought us heaven's choices; Heavenly music, let it ring.*

*Alleluia! Alleluia! Easter people, let us sing.*

**\*PEACE OF CHRIST**

The peace of Christ be with you! **And also with you!**

**MORNING ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**TIME FOR YOUNG DISCIPLES (11:00)** ..... Ann Roth

*Following the Children's Moment at 11:00, first graders and younger are invited to attend Enrichment.*

*Parents, please walk your children to the Children's Hall. Second grade and older return to their parents;  
please have a Children's Worship Bag for this time.*

**OFFERING OURSELVES, OUR GIFTS TO GOD**

Anthem: "You Are Being Redeemed" ..... Earlene Rentz

*(8:30) Turner Shaw, soloist*

*(11:00) Chancel Choir*

*Depart now in the fellowship of God the Father,*

*and as you go, remember:*

*In the goodness of God*

*you were born into this world;*

*by the grace of God*

*you have been kept*

*all the day long,  
even until this hour;  
by the love of God,  
fully revealed in the face of Jesus,  
you are being redeemed.*

\*DOXOLOGY AT THE PRESENTATION ..... LASS UNS ERFREUEN

*Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;  
Praise God, all creatures here below: Alleluia! Alleluia!  
Praise God, the source of all our gifts!  
Praise Jesus Christ, whose power uplifts!  
Praise the Spirit, Holy Spirit! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!*

\*PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

## RECEIVING HIS WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION ..... John Gleysteen (8:30)  
Rick Atkerson (11:00)

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON ..... Daniel 7:13-14  
OT pg. 1015

This is the Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

NEW TESTAMENT LESSON ..... Acts 1:1-11  
NT pg. 143

This is the Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

SERMON

“The Ascended King” ..... Rev. Abby Gatliff

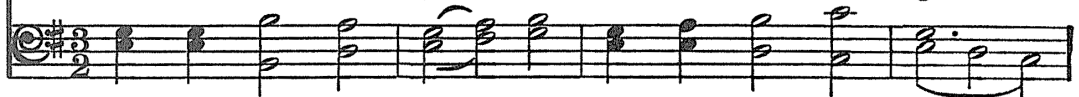

## RESPONDING IN FAITH

\*HYMN OF RESPONSE: “At the Name of Jesus” (*see next page*)



# At the Name of Jesus





1. At the name of Je - sus Ev - ery knee shall bow,  
 2. Hum - bled for a sea - son, To re - ceive a name  
 3. Bore it up tri - umph - ant, With its hu - man light,  
 4. In your hearts en - throne Him; There let Him sub - due  
 5. Broth - ers, this Lord Je - sus Shall re - turn a - gain,


Ev - ery tongue con - fess Him King of Glo - ry now;  
 From the lips of sin - ners, Un - to whom He came,  
 Through all ranks of crea - tures, To the cen - tral height,  
 All that is not ho - ly, All that is not true:  
 With His Fa - ther's glo - ry O'er the earth to reign;

'Tis the Fa - ther's pleas - ure We should call Him Lord,  
 Faith - ful - ly He bore it Spot - less to the last,  
 To the throne of God - head, To the Fa - ther's breast;  
 Crown Him as your Cap - tain In temp - ta - tion's hour;  
 For all wreaths of em - pire Meet up - on His brow,

Who from the be - gin - ning Was the migh - ty Word.  
 Brought it back vic - to - rious, When from death He passed;  
 Filled it with the glo - ry Of that per - fect rest.  
 Let His will en - fold you In its light and power.  
 And our hearts con - fess Him King of Glo - ry now. A - MEN.



**\*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH** ..... The Heidelberg Catechism

Question 49: How does Christ's ascension to heaven benefit us?

First, he is our advocate in heaven  
in the presence of his Father.

Second, we have our own flesh in heaven  
as a sure pledge that Christ our head  
will also take us, his members,  
up to himself.

Third, he sends his Spirit to us on earth  
as a corresponding pledge,  
by whose power  
we seek the things above,  
where Christ sits at the right hand of God,  
and not things on earth.

**PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER**

Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name. Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.

**\*HYMN: #142 (blue)**

"All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name" ..... DIADEM  
*Recession of the Word and Light*

**\*BENEDICTION**

**POSTLUDE: "Tuba Tune in D Major"** ..... C.S. Lang

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**WELCOME**

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**Getting Connected at SHPC** | To find out more about who we are and how you can become part of our church community, contact Pastor Cort Gatliff at [cgatliff@southhighland.org](mailto:cgatliff@southhighland.org).

**The Flowers in the Chancel today** are given for the glory of God and in memory of Dr. James (Jim) Dorroh, beloved mentor and friend. Jim served as organist at South Highland for several years and was responsible for some of the most recent renovations to our 1964 Möller sanctuary organ.

## Events and Happenings:

- **Summer Sunday Schedule** | Starting next Sunday, May 24, there will be **only one worship service**, at 10:00 a.m. in the Sanctuary. Sunday School will begin at 9:00. Our summer adult option, the Coffee Pot Class, will spend **June and July** with Jesus' "I Am" statements in the gospel of John in Davis Family Hall beginning on Sunday, June 7.
- **FMS Next Sunday** | We will receive donations next Sunday for our Feed My Sheep food pantry. During your shopping trip this week, please pick up an extra package of toilet tissue, then look for donation receptacles around the church next week. Thanks!
- **VBS Registration Now Open!** | Parents, register your kids now for SHPC's 2026 Vacation Bible School, "Rome: Paul and the Underground Church." They will travel to the ancient city to become a part of history as they play games, visit the Marketplace, learn from the apostle Paul, and more. **Register in the SHPC mobile app** or visit [southhighland.org/vbs](https://southhighland.org/vbs) to register online.
- **Vacation Bible School Needs Volunteers** | VBS runs on the Holy Spirit—AND our wonderful volunteers! We need people to help decorate, shepherd campers from place to place, lead activities, and more. Learn more and register your availability using the SHPC mobile app or visit the VBS link on the home page at [southhighland.org](https://southhighland.org).
- **Saturday Showers Needs** | SHPC's weekend ministry to our unhoused neighbors needs donations of: clean, used T-shirts; new or gently used socks; and reusable shopping bags, totes, or backpacks. You may drop donations at the church reception desk. More info from Heidi Messier. Thank you!
- **PW Honorees** | Congratulations to Katya O'Leary, Janet Perry, and Beckie Messer on being named Honorary Life Members in Presbyterian Women for their faithful service and outstanding leadership at South Highland.